

Message Text

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SUBJ: UNICEF AID IN INDOCHINA PENINSULA--PRESS RELEASE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUBJECT PRESS RELEASE DATED
16 APRIL 1974:

QTE

UNICEF OUTLINES AID PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN IN INDOCHINA
PENINSUAL

(THE FOLLOWING, REPRODUCED AS RECEIVED FROM UNICEF, IS
ALSO BEING ISSUED
IN GENEVA).

THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF) HAS RELEASED
AN INFORMATION NOTE REPORTING ON ITS EFFORTS TO ASSIST CHILDREN
AND MOTHERS IN THE INDO-CHINA PENINSULA OVER THE PAST YEAR
AND OUTLINING ITS PROPOSED ASSISTANCE FOR 1974 AND 1975.
THESE PROPOSALS PUT THE TOTAL VALUE OF UNICEF ASSISTANCE OVER
THE THREE YEARS AT ABOUT \$44MILLION.

THE NOTE IS BEING ISSUED BY UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HENRY
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R. LABOUISSSE, TO MEMBERS OF THE CHILDREN'S FUND EXECUTIVE

BOARD WHO WILL BE MEETING IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH.

IT OUTLINES THE STEPS TAKEN TO ACHIEVE ADEQUATE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH AUTHORITIES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE PENINSULA; DESCRIBES PROGRESS IN IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN EACH AREA; DETAILS THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN 1973 AND PROPOSED FOR 1974 AND 1975; AND SUMMARIZES THE FINANCIAL HELP NEEDED TO MAKE SUCH ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE.

COSTS OF ASSISTANCE

"THE DIMENSIONS OF THE TASK IN THE INDO-CHINA PENINSULA", SAYS MR. LABOUISSSE IN THE INFORMATION NOTE, "WHETHER IN RURAL AREAS BEING RESETTLED OR RECONSTRUCTED OR MORE GENERALLY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRIES, ARE VERY LARGE AND WILL CALL FOR EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS AND RESOURCES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS TO COME".

MOST OF THIS DEPENDS ON SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. IF MR. LABOUISSSE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE ACCEPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, UNICEF WILL SUPPLY FROM ITS GENERAL RESOURCES A TOTAL OF JUST OVER \$11 MILLION IN THE THREE YEARS OF THE SPECIAL REHABILITATION EFFORT, LEAVING \$35 MILLION TO COME FROM SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

OF THIS, \$12.5 MILLION HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN OR PLEDGED BY 10 GOVERNMENTS--ALGERIA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, DENMARK, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY AND SWEDEN--AND ANOTHER \$386,000 HAS BEEN RAISED BY 12 UNICEF NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND OTHER GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

THUS, ANOTHER \$20 MILLION IS STILL NEEDED TO CARRY THROUGH THE OUTLINED PROGRAMME. MR. LABOUISSSE ESTIMATES THAT \$1.6 MILLION IN NEW CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE NEEDED FOR USE THIS YEAR AND \$18.6 MILLION FOR 1975.

ASSISTANCE TRENDS

ALMOST \$5 MILLION SPENT ON COMMITTEE IN 1973 WAS FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES TO EXPAND EXISTING PROJECTS IN LAOS, KHMER REPUBLIC
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AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM, AS WELL AS EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM AND IN OTHER AREAS OF VIET-NAM REACHED IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE INDO-CHINA OPERATIONAL GROUP OF THE RED CROSS.

MR. LABOUISSSE REPORTS THAT THE VARIOUS AUTHORITIES IN THE PENINSULA HAVE INDICATED THAT UNICEF'S HELP IS ESPECIALLY

NEEDED TO HELP REBUILD AND FURTHER DEVELOP THE BASIC SERVICES WHICH BENEFIT CHILDREN, AND TO A LESSER DEGREE FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF.

HE NOTES THAT THE MOST URGENT REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN MOST PARTS OF THE PENINSULA ARE RECEIVING VERY SUBSTANTIAL EXTERNAL AID FROM OTHER SOURCES.

THE AUTHORITIES, IN SETTING PRIORITIES FOR THE REHABILITATION EFFORT, HAVE PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED, IN ADDITION TO THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING HEALTH SERVICES, THE NEED TO RECONSTRUCT AND IMPROVE SCHOOLS, BEGINNING WITH PRIMARY SCHOOLS. ANOTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS THE TRAINING OF STAFF AND SUPERVISORS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN. UNQTE SCALI

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